



Special Management Committee Meeting

June 23, 2021

Meeting Objective: Confirm habitat-based targets for inclusion in MassBays' Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Call-in: 646 876 9923

Meeting ID: 325 737 8138

Passcode: 903101

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- 9:00 Virtual Coffee & check-in
Vacation, anyone? Share your summer plans!
- 9:30 Welcome and Introductions – *Colin*
Thanks for participating in this extra Committee meeting... a momentous one, as we ready our CCMP for EPA review. CCMPs are a requirement under S.320 of the Clean Water Act, part of the National Estuary Program's mandate. MassBays' previous plan was finalized in 1996; we have been working according to an Interim CCMP since 2019. At that time, EPA directed us to develop targets for habitat conditions across the Bays.
- As you know, MassBays encompasses three Bays, and when we looked closely at our planning area we were able to delineate 68 separate sub-watersheds, 47 of which are estuaries. Setting targets for each of those watersheds would be a monumental task! Instead, the Science & Technical Advisory Subcommittee (STAC) worked with EPA's Office of Research and Development to employ a cutting-edge approach to the effort.
- Julie Simpson has chaired STAC during this work, and will describe how they came to the recommendations they'll share today for ambitious and achievable targets. Pam will then describe how the targets will be used to guide MassBays' work over the next several years.
- 9:45 Phase 1: Setting Long-Term Environmental Targets for MassBays -- *Julie*
- 10:05 Phase 2: Working Toward Long-Term Environmental Targets for MassBays – *Pam*
- 10:15 Discussion
Should focus on Phase 1 and its implications for Phase 2 only – avoid getting into *how* will we meet the habitat goals, but instead *what habitat goals* will we meet
- 11:15 Wrap up and Next Steps
(Pam has a slide)Next Spring: roll out the EPA-approved CCMP and Ecohealth Tracking Tool during a State of the Bays Symposium, while showing off to EPA via our Program Evaluation.
- 11:30 pm Adjourn**

MassBays Vision

We envision a network of healthy and resilient estuaries, sustainable ecosystems that support the life and communities dependent upon them.

MassBays Mission

To empower 50 coastal communities to protect, restore, and enhance their coastal habitats. To fulfill this mission, MassBays engages local, state, and federal entities to advance the use of scientific information and provide technical support for better decision making.

Future Management Committee Meeting Dates 2021

September 15, December 15

All meetings begin at 9:30, with (virtual or real-life) coffee & snacks & social time starting at 9am.